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**Dated: June 20, 2006**

**Signature:**

(Michael J. Doherty)

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
Group Art Unit: 3738

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-446 CIP III CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ralph et al.

Application No.: 10/648,464

Filed: August 25, 2003

**For: INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER DEVICE  
HAVING A SLOTTED PARTIAL  
CIRCULAR DOMED ARCH STRIP SPRING**

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: Examiner: J. G. Blanco  
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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 28, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: